

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 03754 112357Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 112348Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3666

S E C R E T GUATEMALA 3754

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, GT

SUBJECT: GOG DESIRE TO APPOINT CONTRVERSIAL LEFTIST AS CONSUL
GENERAL TO HOUSTON

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS INFORMED US ON UNOFFICIAL AND HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THAT IT WOULD LIKE TO APPOINT CARLOS MANUEL PELLECEC DURAN, PRESENTLY GUATEMALA'S AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL, AS CONSUL GENERAL IN HOUSTON, BUT WILL NOT MAKE THIS MOVE IF USG OBJECTS. PELLECEC, A HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL LEFTIST AND FORMER COMMUNIST, IS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF EX-PRESIDENT ARANA'S, WHO APPOINTED HIM TO ISRAEL AND HAS ASKED PRESIDENT LAUGERUD TO KEEP HIM ON IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE. LAUGERUD DOES NOT WANT TO REAPPOINT PELLECEC AS AN AMBASSADOR, NOR DOES HE WISH TO IGNORE EX-PRESIDENT ARANA'S REQUEST COMPLETELY. THUS THE HOUSTON PROPOSAL, WHICH WOULD MEET THE LETTER OF ARANA'S REQUEST WHILE PUTTING PELLECEC ON ICE. SINCE PELLECEC ASSIGNMENT IS PART OF CHAIN OF AMBASSADORIAL CHANGES, GOG WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY US REACTION.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND ACTION REQUESTED: WE SEE NO REASON TO OBJECT TO PELLECEC ASSISNGMENT, WHICH DOES NOT TECHNICALLY REQUIRE OUR CONCURRENCE. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SAYING WE HAVE NO OBJECTION.

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